

Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's



Capitol Report



Rep. Alonzo's HB 451 Would Encourage More Minorities To Become Optometrists; Passed Unanimously out of committee and is now on Local and Consent Calendar



Rep. Alonzo's HB 451, legislation which proposes to support an optometry career program at the University of Houston, would encourage more minorities to enter the medical field of optometry. The highly successful program would prepare highly qualified, economically disadvantaged junior-level, senior-level, and post baccalaureate students from both public and private institutions of higher education for advanced studies and a career in the field of optometry. Currently, UH is the only public professional optometry program in Texas.

Rep. Alonzo's HB 2870 To be Heard on House Floor Friday 5/1/2015; Measure Would help Firefighters On the job; One Step Closer to Reaching Fruition

Rep. Alonzo has been collaborating with firefighters from across Texas to create a search and rescue task force within the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). The bill seeks to address concerns raised when municipal employees, *other* than permanent, full-time and adequately trained fire protection personnel, are assigned to wildlife firefighting duties that only a well-qualified, and properly trained fireman can perform.

This bill amends existing government Code to prohibit an employee of a municipality that has adopted the fire fighters' and police officers' civil service law from performing a duty that is classified as a wild-land firefighting duty including conducting a prescribed burn unless the employee is a permanent fulltime fire department civil service employee regularly assigned to perform one or more specified duties that typically are assigned to fire protection personnel and distinguish such personnel from other fire department employees regardless of whether the person holds a certificate issued by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection.



**\$10,000 Target Stores Scholarships -
(CSFA) All-Around Scholarship Program;
Deadline Nov, 2, 2015; 2,100 Awards Available**



Scholarship title: Target Scholarships - Target Stores (CSFA) All-Around Scholarship Program
Applicable Majors: All Fields of Study

Tomorrow's leaders are already making a difference today. Target encourages young people to reach for their dreams and rewards students who strive to achieve excellence in their schools and in their communities by volunteering their time and talents to those in need. Each year, Target awards more than 2,100 All-Around Scholarships—including four \$10,000 national scholarships and two smaller scholarships for each Target store—to high school seniors and college students age 24 and younger. Target Scholarships recognize volunteer work as well as academic achievement, encouraging students to show us true enlightenment goes beyond what can be learned from textbooks.

Additional Information Please visit the sponsor's Web site for additional information and entry requirements
http://www.scholarships4students.com/it%27s_all_up_to_you_scholarship.htm

**Rep. Alonzo's Mammography Measure - House Bill 449 -
Takes Public Testimony Wednesday, April 29, 2015**

The primary objective of H.B. 449 is to allow certain enrollees the choice to go bypass the primary physician's referral and go directly to the mammographer who is not in enrollee's insurance provider's network. This bill will allow enrollee to receive reimbursement from enrollee's current insurance provider for the mammography performed by the doctor of enrollee's choice that is not in enrollee's insurance provider's network.

Currently the National Cancer Institute (NCI) recommends that women have screening mammograms who are 40 and older every 1 to 2 years and for women who are at a higher risk of breast cancer should talk with their health care providers about whether to have mammograms before the age of 40 and how often they should have them. According to NCI reports, the estimated numbers of new **cases** and **deaths** from breast cancer in the United States in 2007 were 178,480 women and 2,030 men, and 40,460 women and 450 men, respectively. In 2008 those numbers went up to 182,460 new cases in women and 1,990 new cases in men; while the deaths went up to 40,480 in women and 450 in men.